been received from coal consumers, including industries in Gujarat, regarding quality of coal being supplied to them. They mainly relate to presence of extraneous materials in coal as also oversized, sticky and muddy coal. These complaints are examined on merits of each case and corrective action is taken to redress the grievances of consumers.

In the process of mining of coal especially in opencast mines, some stones/shales/extraneous materials may get mixed up with coal. Following steps are being taken by Coal Companies to improve the quality of coal sent to consumers including industries in Gujarat.

(i) An action plan for installation of feeder breakers and coal handling plants is being implemented to ensure quality of coal.

(ii) Stones are being segregated at the time of loading of coal.

(iii) Slow moving picking belts are being provided in coal handling plants for manual picking off shale and stone pieces.

(iv) Better supervision is being ensured at the time of loading to maintain the quality of coal and to develop quality consciousness among workers, supervisors and executives engaged at railway sidings.

(v) All consumers including consumers in Gujarat are encouraged to post their representatives at loading points to ensure quality of coal despatches.

Functioning of Dankuni Coal Complex

1737. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any enquiry into the functioning of the Dankuni coal complex which is increasingly becoming a drag on the Coal India Limited;

(b) if so, what are the details and also the present position in this regard;

(c) what is the extent of losses incurred by it and what are reasons therefor;

(d) whether due to operational snag being ignored, almost all the 40 ovens have been badly damaged and downstream units are in bad condition and the entire plant is also likely to collapse;

(e) if so, what are the facts in this regard; and

(f) what effective steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken to save the plant and other machinery and to improve its functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) Government is regularly reviewing the performance of Low Temperature Carbonisation (LTC) Plant at Dankuni. Emerging out of these reviews, various steps have been taken for improving the overall performance of the plant which have started yielding positive results. Despatches of various products have increased and the capacity utilisation of the plant has also improved.

(c) The loss incurred by LTC Plant at Dankuni during the last three years (1991-92 to 1993-94) is about Rs. 100 crores. The main reason for the heavy loss is the low utilisation of the plant due to failure of the linked consumer, Greater Calcutta Gas Supply Corporation (GCGSC) to draw the agreed volume of gas from the plant.

(d) and (e) Coal India Limited has reported that no damage of permanent nature had been noticed in retort benches No. 1 and 2. Only clinker formation at the bottom portion of some retorts was taking place resulting in drop in productivity. Some of the retorts have already been cleaned out and put back into the normal operation and other retorts are under the process of cleaning of clinkers.

(f) An action programme drawn up for improving the performance of the plant mainly covering strategies for marketing of various products as well as their pricing is under implementation. Some of the actions being taken under the programme are:

(i) Exploring new market for CILCOKE, cokefines and gas.

(ii) Manufacture of low phosphorous coke and marketing in Ferro alloy industry.

(iii) Marketing of the light oil as an alternative fuel.

Demand of Coal in Madhya Pradesh

1738. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) what is the monthly requirement of coal in the State of Madhya Pradesh for domestic and industrial consumption;

(b) what was the actual allocation of coal to the State during the last twelve months with monthly details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to increase the allocation of coal to Madhya Pradesh in the near future; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) The requirements of coal are assessed industry/sector-wise for the whole country. They are not assessed State-wise. Coal India Limited (CIL) supplies coal based on programmes submitted by the consumers in accordance

with the sponsorships issued by the respective sponsoring authorities. Supplies to power and Cement Units are made based on short-term linkages established by the Standing Linkage Committee (SLC) for these sectors. The details regarding supply of coal of Madhya Pradesh in the current year are not readily available. However, coal supplies to consumers in Madhya Pradesh during the last two years were as below :—

(In '000 tonnes)
(Data provisiona

1992-93	33,895
1993-94	37,301

(c) and (d) Any request for additional allocation of coal/coke are considered/ examined in each case on merits. Coal India Limited (CIL) is presently in a position to meet almost the entire non-coking coal demand in Madhya Pradesh except for soft coke/hard coke. In addition coal from a number of collieries is being offered under Liberalised Sale Scheme (LSS) under which scheme coal is supplied without the requirements of linkage/sponsorship. Under this scheme coal is also being supplies to Whole Sale Traders and Mini Traders who. in turn meet the demands of small and medium consumers.

Objectives of the Eighth Five Year Plan for Coal Mining

1739. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the objectives of the Eighth Five Year Plan for coal mining in India;

(b) whether it is a fact that mining of low ash content quality coal from underground mines is not one of the stated objectives of the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the objective of improvement of quality of coking coal through beneficiation for the steel industry and non-coking coal for the power sector through washing being fulfilled satisfactorily ;

(e) if so, the details thereof including the year-wise levels of ash content achieved through beneficiation/washing vis-a-vis the required levels for the steel and the power sectors; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor and action taken or contemplated to meet the quality requirements of coking coal for the steel industry and non-coking coal for the power sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) The objectives of Eighth Five Year Plan for coal mining are inter-alia as follows :—

(i) To ensure that the supply and movement of coal are managed in a well balanced manner so that the pit-head stocks are reduced to a reasonable level and the requirements of the consumers are met to the maximum extent.

(ii) To take up specific measures for maximising the use of indigenous coking coal in steel production through quality improvement schemes including betterment of the existing washery plants.

(iii) To minimise time and cost overruns in the implementation of coal projects.

(iv) To take such measures that would minimise delays in the implementation of projects on account of delays in land acquisition and rehabilitation of displaced families and delays in the clearance of projects from the forest and environment angle.

(v) To prepare an effective environmental management plan including a comprehensive rehabilitation policy and to monitor and implement the same.

(vi) To arrest low production and productivity in underground mines and improve overall productivity of machinery and manpower.

(b) and (c) One of the priority area identified in the Eighth Plan in respect of underground mining is to arrest low production and productivity in underground mines. The Eighth Plan also emphasises on improving the performance of underground projects adoption of appropriate technologies and taking up development of new underground mines wherever possible. Increase in production for underground mines will include production of superior grades (low ash) coal.

(d) to (f) Steel plants in India are designed to use coking coal with 17+/— 0.5% ash for producing metallurgical coke. Average ash content in the washed coking coal in some of the washeries is higher than the required figure. The average weighted ash percentage in the washed coal for last 2 years washerywise is given below :—